

# INVENTORY OF FOREIGN SEEDS AND PLANTS.

## INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT.

This Section has recently received, through the generosity of the Honorable Barbour Lathrop, of Chicago, an interesting series of seeds of economic plants secured by himself and Mr. David G. Fairchild in Austria, Italy, and Egypt. As shown in the notes furnished by Mr. Fairchild, several varieties are likely to prove of importance in the South and Southwest, and it accordingly seems desirable, in order to avoid delay in distribution, to make this material the subject of a special inventory.

It is from the warm and generally more or less arid Mediterranean region that economic plants suitable to the South and Southwest are to be expected, rather than from northern Europe, where the climate approximates that of New England and Canada. The value of such importations as the present can not, therefore, be inferred from the usual variety tests alone; they should also be tried under conditions similar to those indicated in the accompanying information. Some may be found to thrive where the domestic varieties will not, and thus permit the range of a crop to be extended.

From the neighborhood of Padua, Italy, comes a seedless raisin, No. 3921, which has aroused such lively interest among the California vineyardists to whom cuttings were sent that an additional order has been placed with the parties from whom the original lot was received.

The Jannovitch cotton, No. 3991, is a new long-staple variety suitable for upland cultivation. It has only recently become known in Egypt, but is there considered extremely promising, so that seed sells at a high price.

The Egyptian clover, No. 4254, a plant of the greatest importance in Egypt, has been repeatedly tried in the United States, but thus far without marked success. The information sent by Mr. Fairchild with the present importation shows, however, that its uses have thus far been entirely misunderstood in this country. Instead of being suited to a hot climate and a dry soil, it is adapted only for winter growth in warm regions, on wet, overflowed or irrigated lands. The Egyptian clover may thus find a use in the rice and sugar growing districts. It should also be tried in localities subject to inundation, such as the lower valley of the Colorado, about Yuma.